

SPAWN



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103

124



DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM

TODD McFARLANE AND
IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

salvation road - part iv

DEDICATED TO
JAY CLARK

PLOT
TODD McFARLANE
BRIAN HOLGUIN

STORY
BRIAN HOLGUIN

PENCILS
ANGEL MEDINA

INKS
DANNY MIKI
VICTOR OLAZABA
ALLEN MARTINEZ
CRIME LAB STUDIOS

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SPAWN 123 SUMMARY

Al is a grateful man. After so many years of living with his chosen destiny as a Hellspawn, he'd forgotten the simple joy of being human; however, he should choose his new friends more carefully, since the Wiccan, Nyx, has plans for Al that look unpleasant at best. As Jason Wynn is being interrogated for information about Al Simmons, he is getting advice from the long-absent, opportunistic and apparently invisible Clown. With the Clown's help, Wynn appears not as crazy as originally thought. Meanwhile, Al has a dream that turns into a real-life nightmare as he awakens to find himself physically restrained with Nyx, his new best friend, about to plunge a knife into his chest.



TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS



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YOU
HAVE TO
TRUST ME,
AL...



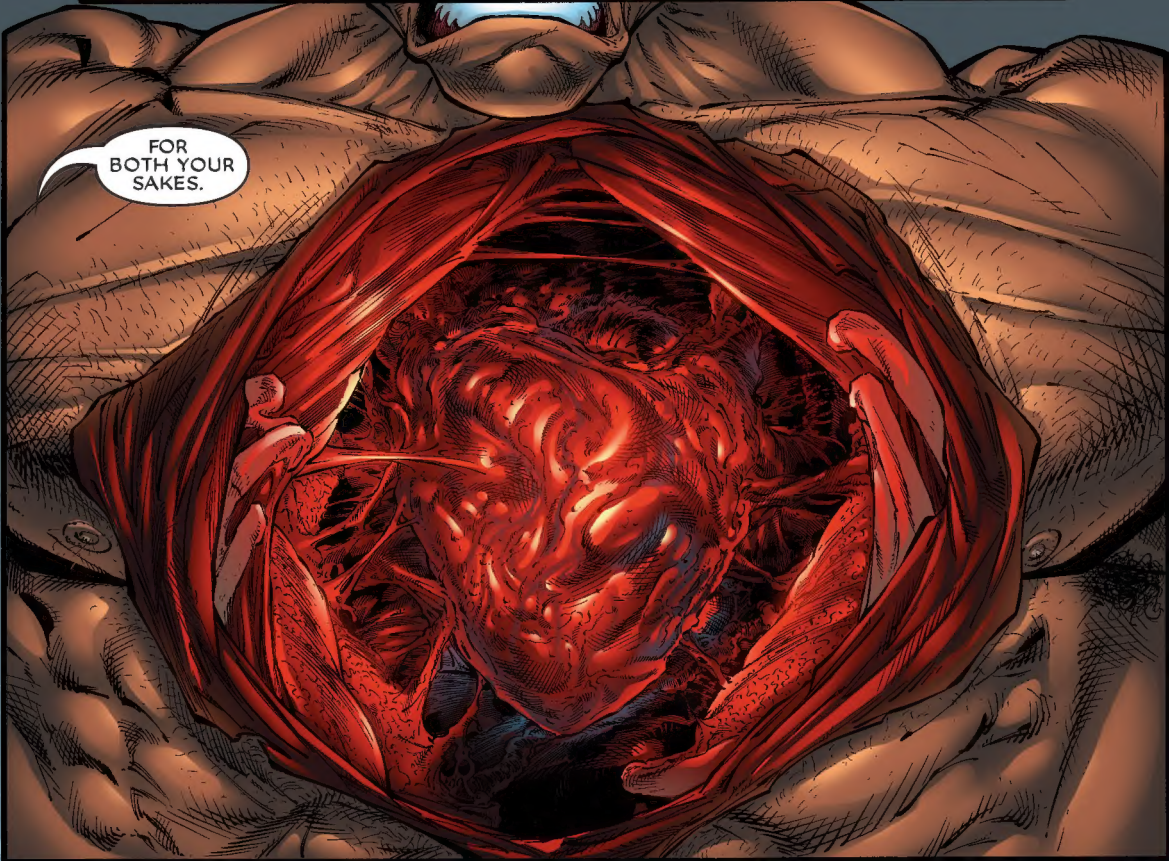
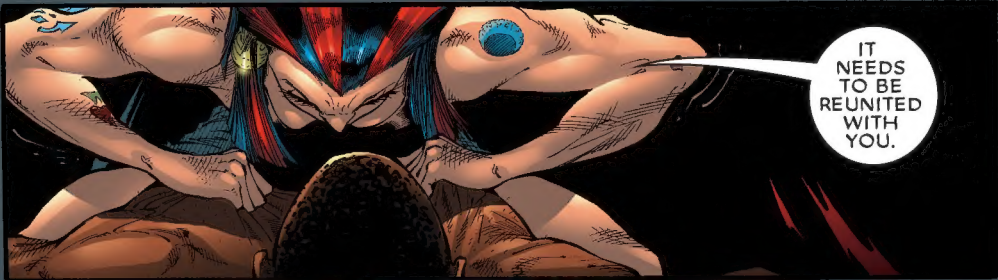
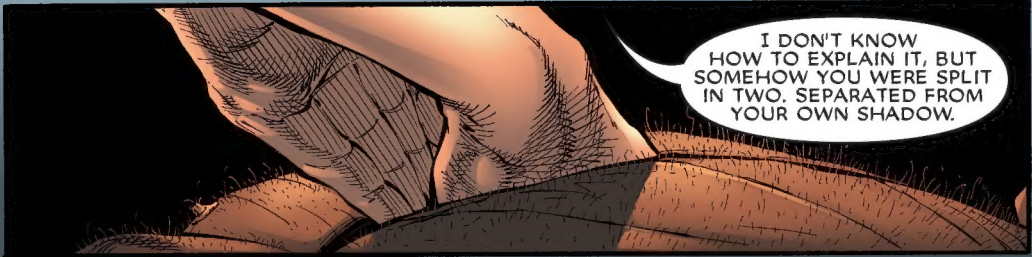
I'M
DOING THIS
FOR
YOUR OWN
GOOD.

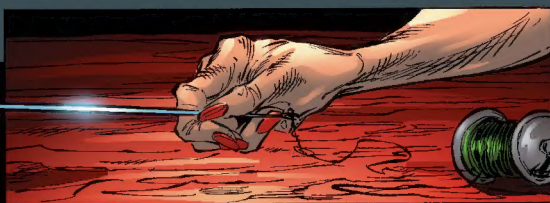
I CAN'T
REMEMBER
ANY PART
OF MY LIFE
THAT
HAPPENED
MORE THAN
A FEW DAYS
AGO. AND
NOW...

THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING,
CAN IT?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO I AM.
I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE I
COME FROM.

NOW I'M
GOING TO
DIE.





I CAN HEAR HER TALKING, BUT THE WORDS FALL AWAY SOMEHOW. I CHOKE BACK VOMIT AS I FEEL THE COOL AIR ON MY BEATING HEART.

THIS IS WORSE
THAN A NIGHTMARE.
THIS IS HELL.



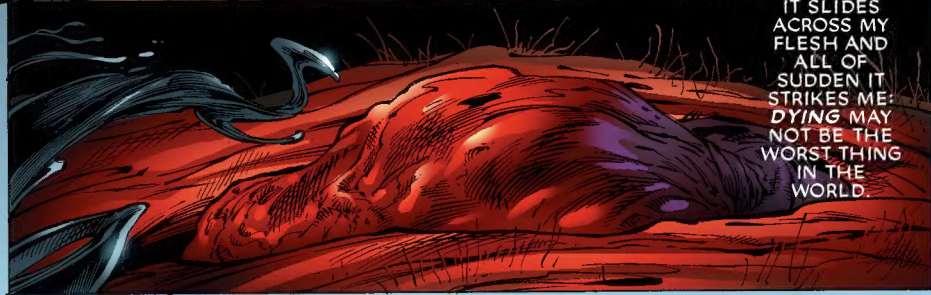
THAT *THING* AT THE END OF THE BED, THAT *MONSTER*. I KNOW IT FROM SOMEWHERE.



AND I KNOW
THERE IS NOTHING
IN THE WORLD I
FEAR MORE.



IT REACHES OUT AND TOUCHES ME WITH
VILE, BLACK LITTLE TONGUES.



IT SLIDES
ACROSS MY
FLESH AND
ALL OF
SUDDEN IT
STRIKES ME:
DYING MAY
NOT BE THE
WORST THING
IN THE
WORLD.



TRY NOT TO SQUIRM. WE WANT TO GET THIS RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.



THE NEEDLE IS MADE OF PUREST SILVER SHARPENED ON A LODESTONE UNDER THE FULL MOON.

THE THREAD IS SPUN FROM BLIND SPIDERS, BORN IN THE DARKNESS WITHOUT EYES.



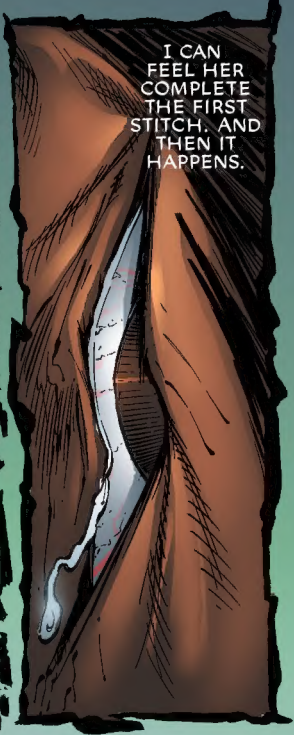
YOU HAVE A STRONG HEART. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS.

MY HEART?!



CHRIST ALMIGHTY! SHE'S STICKING NEEDLES INTO MY HEART!

PLEASE! PLEASE LET ME DIE!



I CAN FEEL HER COMPLETE THE FIRST STITCH. AND THEN IT HAPPENS.

THE FLOODGATES
OPEN AND I CAN
REMEMBER. I CAN
REMEMBER IT ALL.

LIKE A GIANT WAVE, IT CRASHES
DOWN OVER ME. SUSPENDED
IN EVERY DROP IS A MOMENT,
GLITTERING LIKE A DARK STAR.
IT COMES TO ME ALL AT ONCE.

THIS WAS
MY LIFE.

NO. THAT'S
NOT TRUE. I HAD
TWO LIVES.

I WAS AL
SIMMONS.

I WAS
SPAWN.

THAT *THING*, THAT
CREATURE I WAS
RUNNING FROM...
THAT WAS ME.

THAT'S NOT
MY *SHADOW*
SHE'S SEWING
ON TO ME.

IT IS MY
DEMON.

TIME SLOWS TO A DRIP NOW.
PAIN SHOOTS LIKE LIGHTNING
DOWN MY SPINE. HOT TEARS
RUN DOWN MY FACE.

I'VE BEEN LIVING IN
IGNORANT BLISS, BUT
NO MORE. THE SCALES
HAVE BEEN LIFTED
FROM MY EYES.

EVERY CRUEL ACT,
EVERY CARELESS
MISTAKE I'VE EVER
MADE IS SPAT
BACK IN MY FACE
TO SAVOR.

WANDA. CHRIST,
SHE DESERVED
BETTER THAN ME.

THE REDEEMER. HE JOURNEYED
TO HELL TO SAVE ME AND I LEFT
HIM TRAPPED THERE. DIDN'T SO
MUCH AS LIFT A FINGER
TO SET HIM FREE.

FORSBURG. SWALLOWED BY THE
SHADOWS OF HIS OWN MADNESS.
I SAID I WOULD COME BACK
TO RELEASE HIM.

I LIED.

I KILLED WITHOUT
FEELING, WITHOUT
REGRET, WITHOUT
QUESTIONING.

I SPURNED
THE FAITH
OF THOSE
WHO LOVED
ME JUST SO
I WOULDN'T
BE ALONE
IN MY PAIN.

OVER AND
OVER AGAIN.
AS A MAN...
AS A
MONSTER...

I CAUSED SO
MUCH SUFFERING.
AND NOW IT'S
COMING BACK
TO ME.

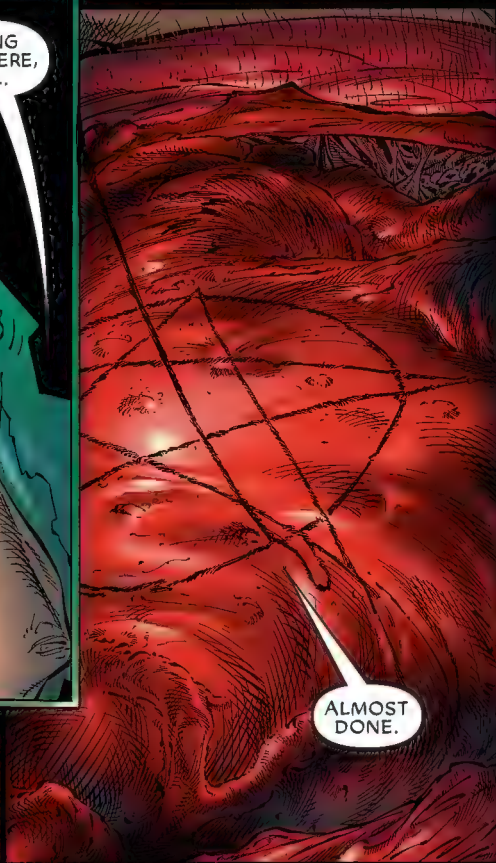
I BLAMED WYNN.
I BLAMED TERRY.
I BLAMED THE
DEVIL AND I
BLAMED GOD.

BUT NOW I
SEE. IT'S ALL
MY FAULT.

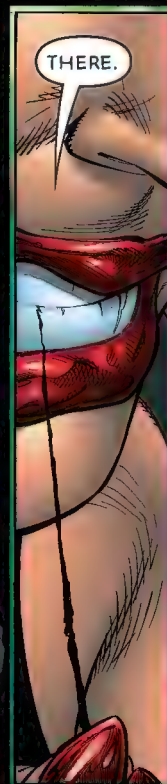
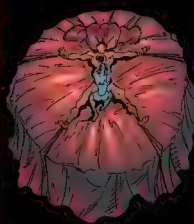
THERE'S
NO ONE
TO BLAME
BUT ME.



HANG
IN THERE,
AL.



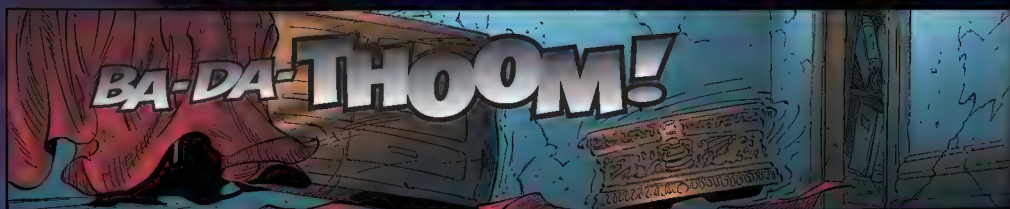
ALMOST
DONE.



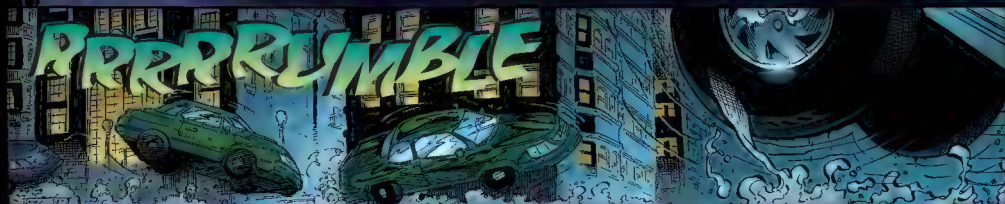
THERE.



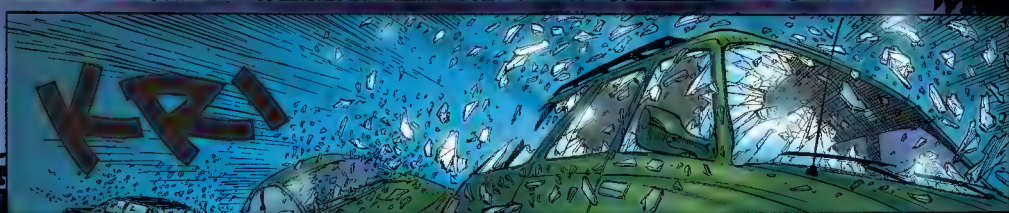
KRASH!



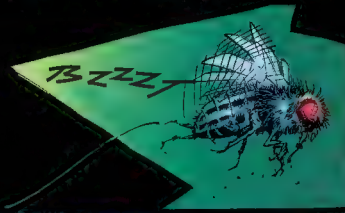
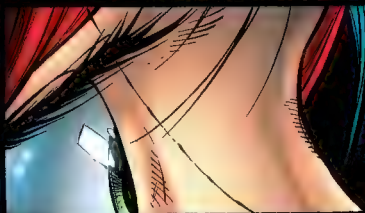
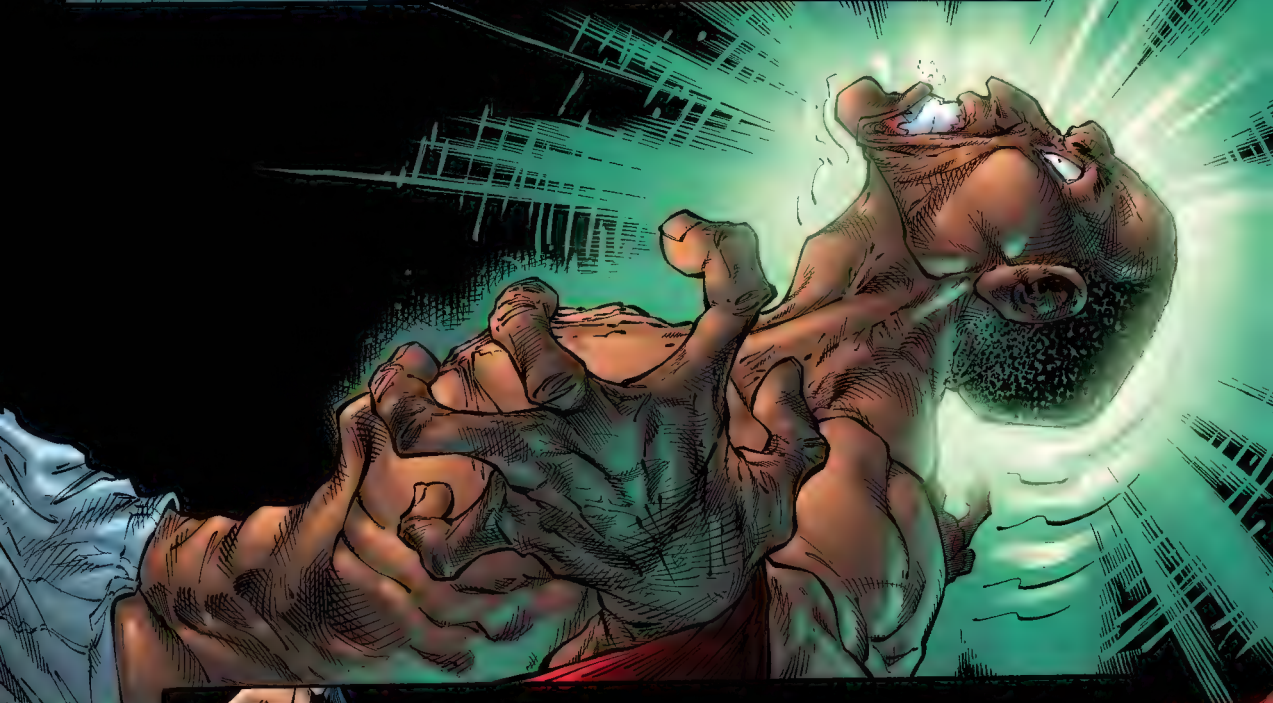
BA-DA-THOOM!

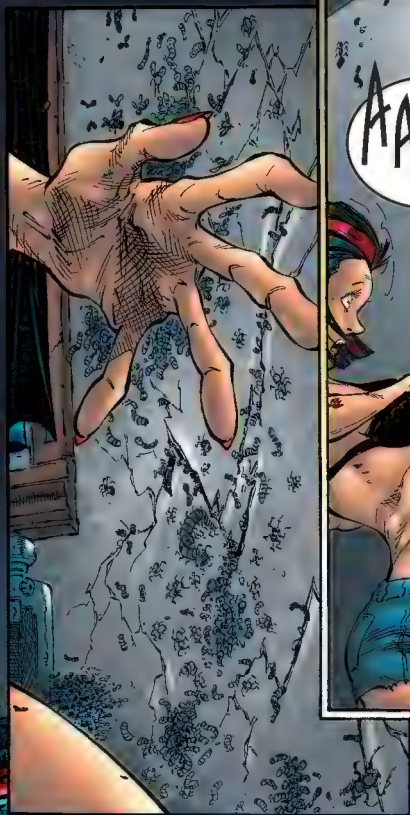


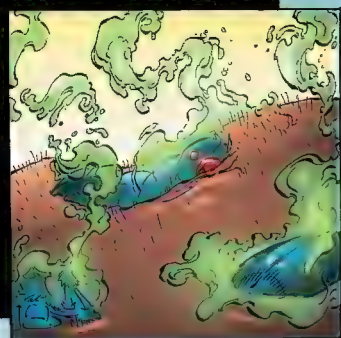
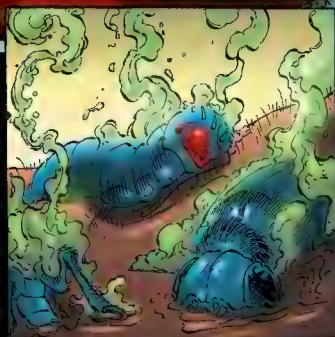
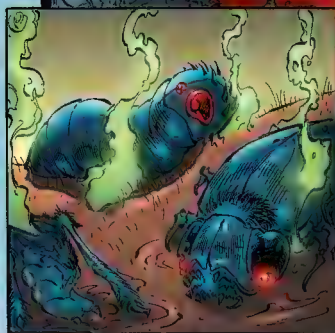
RRRRRUMBLE



KR!

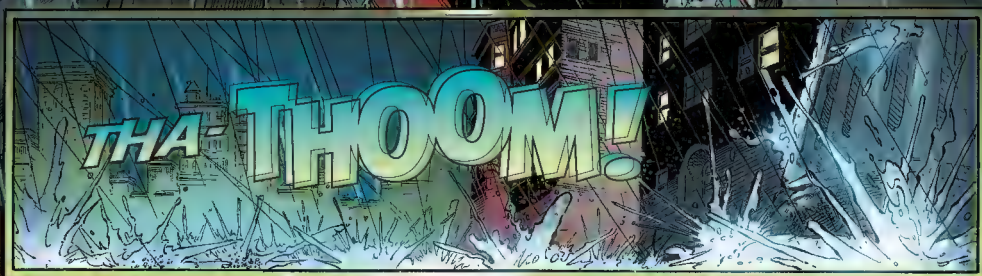








THIS
CAN'T BE
GOOD.



AL...
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?



WHAT
THE
HELL
DID YOU
DO
TO ME?






I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU.



I... I DIDN'T KNOW.



HELP ME? LOOK AT ME! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!



CHRIST, WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE LEFT ME ALONE?



I'M SORRY.

SORRY?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING?

OOF!

YOU'VE DESTROYED ME!



WAIT!
COME
BACK!

I CAN
HELP
YOU...

AGAIN,
MR. WYNN,
PLEASE ACCEPT
OUR APOLOGIES.
YOU UNDERSTAND
THE NEED FOR
EXTREME MEASURES
FROM TIME TO
TIME IN OUR
BUSINESS.

OF
COURSE.

ANYWAY,
I'M SURE YOU'LL
AGREE THERE'S
NO NEED TO MAKE
A FEDERAL CASE
OF THIS.

THANK
YOU SO MUCH
FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
YOU'VE BEEN...WELL,
YOU'VE BEEN VERY
UNDERSTANDING
ABOUT ALL
THIS.

NOT
AT
ALL.



WOULDJA
LISTEN
TO THIS *DOPE*
NATTERING
ON AND
ON?

COME ON
J.W. LET'S BLOW
THIS *GIN JOINT*
BEFORE I'M
FORCED TO TAKE
A *DUMP* IN HIS
MOUTH.

ANYWAY, WE
TRUST YOU WILL
BE QUITE SATISFIED
WITH YOUR *NEW*
POSITION.

YOUR SECURITY
CLEARANCE WILL BE
UNDER REVIEW FOR THE
TIME BEING, OF COURSE,
BUT THAT'S JUST A
FORMALITY.

BEST OF
LUCK TO
YOU, MR. WYNN.
NO HARD
FEELINGS.

WHAT
A TEDIOUS
LITTLE
MAN.

NO KIDDING.
IT'S GONNA TAKE
A MONTH TO SCRUB THE
SMOOCH MARKS OFF
YOUR CABOOSE. SO PAL,
WHAT'S OUR NEXT
MOVE?

I IMAGINE
WE CAN DO
JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING
WE WANT.

GOOD
ANSWER,
JASON.



I THINK
THIS IS THE
BEGINNING OF
A BEAUTIFUL
FRIENDSHIP.





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE